GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1446
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2007
TAJ MAHAL
Appadurai Shri M.

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ninety per cent of the tourists visiting India visit Taj Mahal positively ;

(b) if so, the projection of tourists visiting Taj Mahal for the next three years;and

(c) the facilities likely to be extended to these tourists?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) : During 2005 the estimated number of foreign tourist arrivals to India was 39.19 lakh and the number of foreign visitors to Taj Mahal was 5.94 lakh, which is approximately 15% of the total foreign tourist arrivals.

(b):Assuming that the number of foreign tourist arrivals to the country grows by 13% annually, which was the growth in 2006 over 2005, and that 15% of the total foreign tourists arriving in the country visit Taj Mahal, the number of foreign visitors to Taj Mahal during 2006, 2007 and 2008 would be around 6.71 lakh,7.58 lakh and 8.57 lakh respectively.

(c): The steps taken by the Ministry of Tourism to provide facilities to tourists, including those visiting Taj Mahal, include the following:-

Development of tourist spots under its various schemes of infrastructure development for tourist circuits and destinations including :-

Construction of Wayside Public Conveniences;

Putting up of signage and display boards showing Tourist Area Maps and documentation on places of interest at various locations;

Setting up of Tourist Arrival Centres, Reception Centres, Interpretation Centres;

Requesting the State Governments to set up Tourist Police and deploy them at important/ popular tourist destinations ;

Launching of a social awareness campaign "Atithi Devo Bhavah" to sensitize the stakeholders in tourism,and the public in general, to provide the inbound tourists with a sense of being welcomed by and to the country ;

Granting recognition/ approval to Guides/ Travel Agents and Transport Operators in order to standardize the service and to avoid unscrupulous activities, fleecing, over-charging etc.